REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 12, 17 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-24 remain pending in this application.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 USC § 102 (e), as being anticipated by Mazzara (U.S. 2003/0087642). The rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested. The following is a comparison between embodiments of the present invention and the cited reference.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites selecting a wireless communications system from the preferred roaming list of wireless communications systems in accordance with a predetermined system acquisition sequence, each entry of a wireless communications system in the preferred roaming list including a system identifier; determining whether the selected wireless communications system from the preferred roaming list is a useable wireless communications system or an unusable wireless communications system; and repeating the step of selecting, before attempting to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system, when the selected wireless communications system is determined to be an unusable wireless communications system.

Mazzara discloses a method of providing a wireless service connection, in which a failed connection notification may be received on a primary channel of a prioritized access list, and a secondary channel of the prioritized access list may be selected in response to the failed connection notification. (Abstract). As the Examiner suggests, Mazzara maintains a preferred roaming list in which services are prioritized based on identifiers allocated using condition factors. Prioritized services may be separated into preferred services and non-preferred services. The disclosed method of Mazzara includes attempting to connect to the preferred services first, and, when connection to the preferred services is unsuccessful, then a non-preferred service may be loaded, along with a connection number for a call center service and an origination request for a call connection. (See, Mazzara, paragraphs[0040] and [0050]- [0056]).

Further, as noted by the Examiner, Mazzara discloses that a non-preferred system setting (NPSS) may be loaded when the current record for the geographical region is the lowest priority

record, and an attempt to obtain service with the non-preferred system may be attempted. (See paragraph [0053] of Mazzara). Thus, according to Mazzara, non-preferred systems (*i.e.*, systems with a low priority) may be utilized once the preferred options are exhausted. In other words, when a connection fails for a preferred system on a prioritized list, service with the non-preferred system will be automatically attempted.

It is submitted, therefore, that Mazzara fails to teach or suggest repeating the step of selecting, before attempting to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system, when the selected wireless communications system is determined to be an unusable wireless communications system, as recited in amended independent claim 1. (See Fig. 4 and the corresponding description for support). Instead, Mazzara will automatically attempt connection a non-preferred system; something which embodiments of the present invention will not do. As an exemplary advantage of embodiments of the present invention, time-consuming failed registration/acquisition attempts are avoided.

In addition, Applicants maintain the previous argument that the Examiner has inappropriately interpreted a "non-preferred service", as discussed in Mazzara, to be equivalent to an "unusable wireless communications system", as recited in independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not equate a non-preferred service to an *unusable* system. As described above with reference to Mazzara, a non-preferred service may still be used after the list of preferred services is exhausted. A non-preferred service is, in fact, *useable* even if it is prioritized lower than other services. Therefore, Mazzara does not teach or suggest maintaining a list of unusable wireless communications systems, as recited in independent claim 1, for example.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Mazzara. The remaining pending independent claims, as amended, recite features substantially similar to those described above for amended independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that all pending independent claims, as well as dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art for at least the reasons provided herein.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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